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EPA Region 6 Summary – Monday, August 17

For New Mexico, EPA has a team of 60 employees consisting of federal on-scene coordinators, water quality experts, technicians and contractors supporting the response to the spill. The information meeting at the Farmington Convention Center will be held tonight at 6 pm MT.

New Mexico announced its determination that drinking water systems and recreational activity along the Animas and San Juan rivers can resume based on water quality sampling results collected by both New Mexico Environment Department and the EPA. Reopening drinking water system intakes and allowing recreational activities is a state and local decision and we believe they have taken appropriate steps in arriving at this this decision. EPA sampling results from the river collected last week similarly show that water quality conditions are returning toward pre-event conditions.

EPA continues to collect water quality samples from nine locations in the river near intakes for Aztec, Farmington, Lower Valley Water Users Association, Morning Star Water Supply System and the North Star Water User Association. EPA will continue to sample, analyze, and make data available to support local decision makers moving forward to allow them to make the best informed decisions. Validated sampling data for the Animas and San Juan Rivers from the Northern Border of New Mexico to Navajo Nation collected from Aug. 7 to Aug. 11, 2015 has been released.

Private domestic water well use has resumed based on water quality sampling results from the river collected by both New Mexico Environment Department and the EPA. EPA and NMED tested 114 private domestic wells.

Irrigation ditches along the Animas River have returned to normal irrigation and livestock watering operations. EPA has delivered 974,190 gallons of water for irrigation and 38,925 gallons of water for livestock watering.

